



I have been examining AMEB CPM candidates for a number of years now, but this semester I experienced my first AMEB Rock School London (RSL) exam.

As I am not yet a fully trained RSL examiner, I was asked to oversee the bass guitar grade exam that would be videoed and then sent to Melbourne and on to London for official marking. Rockscool offers both grade exams and performance exams.

At the grade exam an AMEB staff member videoed the exam on an iPad. I was given a script to read from that outlined the exam requirements for the candidate. Each section was clearly laid out for both the examiner and the candidate. Like the AMEB CPM exams, the exam consisted of a number of short pieces, technical exercises, an aural test, a creative improvisation section, a general knowledge section and a sight reading component. There were minor differences in the type of questions asked, but a very similar format is followed. It was clear that the candidate was well prepared for the exam by his teacher, which resulted in a well-executed exam and was reflected in a strong final mark.

As an educator and incoming examiner I have found the RSL publications to be excellent. They cater for beginners through to advanced levels, in drums, bass, guitar, keyboards and vocals. The books are clearly laid out with all exam requirements and are continually updated to include relevant contemporary material. As an RSL examiner I will be expected to examine all of these instruments. Having taught and played in rock bands for many years, I play all of these instruments to a degree, but this will still be a challenging aspect to being an RSL examiner. I am looking forward to completing the training, which will consist of online components and live exams, and hope to be examining many more RSL candidates, with fellow RSL examiner Stuart Storer, in 2017.

Robyn Habel
AMEB Examiner and Trainee Rockscool Examiner